

60th Anniversary Of The 202nd Army Band

toward qualifying enlisted members for positions was programmed and implemented. This course became a prerequisite for the Warrant Officer Bandmaster Course of Instruction.

In the spring of 1965, US troops intervened in the Dominican Republic in the midst of a civil war. The 82nd Airborne Division Band accompanied the division into the capital city, Santo Domingo, as a corridor cutting the city in half was established. In May, as a demonstration of good will and esprit de corps, the 82nd Airborne Division Band held a parade in the sniper infested corridor. Aside from boosting morale and appealing to the local populace, the parade was designed to convey a message to the rebels that Americans were not to be intimidated. Bandmembers had their rifles strapped to their backs as they marched.

VIETNAM WAR

As the US presence in Vietnam increased, bands once again prepared for combat. By 1969, eight bands were stationed in Vietnam. Seven of those bands belonged to divisions. They were assigned to the 1st, 4th, 9th, 23rd (Americal), 25th, 101st, and 1st Cavalry Divisions. One Army band, the 266th, was assigned to the headquarters in Saigon. The RVN Armed Force Band Headquarters and Band School at Thu Duc Market Place oversaw the band program in Vietnam to include administration, budget, training and supply.

Bands in Vietnam, like those in Korea, often performed in combat areas. They flew into combat areas with instruments and weapons, prepared to play pop concerts or military ceremonies and to fight when needed.

In Vietnam, bandsmen built bunkers and served as guards for both inside and outside defensive perimeters, as well as being a vital part of pacification operations. While another unit screened people in a village for Viet Cong soldiers, bands presented concerts and variety entertainment to keep the noncombatant populace away from the screening unit. The people enjoyed the concerts and screening was completed without disturbance. Bands gave powerful psychological support to the troops in conflicts. The appearance of rock and jazz groups in remote areas assured combat soldiers they had not been forgotten.

One notable example of the use of bands in Vietnam was the "Thunder Road" incident, which received national publicity. Major General John Hay, Commanding General of the First Infantry Division, ordered his band to march down "Thunder Road" for a distance of one mile while playing the march Colonel Bogey. This road was critical to the division, but was under control of a North Vietnamese Army regiment located less than a mile away. The enemy, confused by the action, withdrew from the area. The band fulfilled a remarkable combat mission without firing a shot.

Bands were also used during the 1968 inner city riots in the United States. National Guard Bands performed in the inner cities to calm the populace. The 82nd Airborne Band assisted in controlling civil disturbances around Washington DC.

There were three types of Army bands during this time: special, organization, and

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separate.

Organization bands were composed of 1 bandmaster and 42 bandsmen. These bands were organized and activated depending on the nature of the command to which they were assigned.

Separate bands consisted of 1 bandmaster and 28 bandsmen. The 29 separate bands were upgraded to 45 personnel; 42 bandsmen, 1 warrant officer, 1 supply sergeant, and 1 unit clerk. The division (organizational) bands remained at 43 personnel.

In 1970, a group leader course was established at the School of Music. This course trained group leaders with the leadership and musical skills at an intermediate level. It filled the gap between the basic and advanced courses offered at the School of Music. The first class enrolled in January 1971.

Until January 1972, on-the-job-training (OJT) was limited to Active Army band enlistees attaining over 90% on the initial acceptance audition. The OJT, due to limited success, was discontinued for all Active Army bands in January 1972 except the special bands (O2S MOS).

In 1972, the 50th Army Band of Fort Monroe, VA and the 69th Army Band of California combined to form the 50th Army band commonly referred to as the United States Continental Army Band or the TRADOC Band. The authorized strength of the band was 72 personnel (71 enlisted and 1 warrant officer).

The second 72 personnel band was formed in 1973. The Third US Army Band and the 214th Army combined to form the 72-piece 214th Army Band. This band, stationed at Fort McPherson, is commonly referred to as the FORSCOM Band or the Army Ground Forces Band.

POST VIETNAM ERA

In 1975, the Department of the Army inactivated 13 bands. The number of musical activities in the Army decreased to fifty: 29 separate and 16 division bands; 3 special bands; the 3rd US Infantry Fife and Drum Corps; and the US Army Element, School of Music. The number of personnel in the 29 separate increased to 45; 42 bandsmen, 1 warrant officer, 1 supply sergeant, and 1 unit clerk. Division Bands remained at 43 personnel.

The 14th Army Band remained all female until 1975. The Department of the Army directed the WAC Band begin male integration in January 1977. However, the first male bandmember was assigned to the 14th Army Band in December 1975. On August 4, 1976, the first male commander was assigned to the 14th Army Band.

The two 72-piece separate bands were reduced in strength in 1977. The 50th Army Band was reduced to 64 enlisted personnel, and the bandmaster position changed from a warrant officer to a commissioned officer. The 214th Army Band was also reduced to 64 enlisted personnel, and the bandmaster position was changed from a warrant officer to commissioned officer. The 50th Army and 214th Army Bands acquired some characteristics of special bands:

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- (1) Enlisted personnel held Military Occupation Specialty 02S (special bandsman).
- (2) Enlisted assignment were stabilized indefinitely.

In fiscal year 1978, band strength was again reduced. Separate bands reduced from 45 to 41 personnel with the elimination of one supply sergeant position, one unit clerk position, and two clarinet positions. Division (organization) bands reduced from 43 to 41 personnel with the elimination of two clarinet positions.

THE BICENTENNIAL BAND

On February 19, 1974, Army, Navy, and Air Force bandmasters met at Ft. Meade to provide a comprehensive plan for a multi-service band to celebrate the nation's bicentennial. The band was open to active duty members of the various services as well as top musicians attending leading music schools across the nation. The band comprised of 91 musicians and 30 support personnel.

The band toured all 50 states, Canada, Mexico, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. The first appearance was in Dover, Delaware on April 9, 1975. Twenty months later on December 9, 1976, at a Pentagon ceremony, the band performed for the last time.

The amount of miles traveled and the exposure to the public by the Bicentennial Band has never been matched. It is a testimony to what the different services can accomplish when music and working together is of prime importance.

BANDS IN THE 1980s

The 33rd Army Band became the third separate band with a strength adjustment to 64 bandmen and one commissioned officer bandmaster. The 33rd Army Band is located at Headquarters, United States Army, Europe (USAREUR) and is commonly referred to as the USAREUR Band.

In November 1981, the Army published TRADOC Pamphlet 525-13, US Army Operational Concepts Use of Army Bands in Combat Areas. TRADOC Pam 525-13 identifies the musical support provided before, during, and after combat. This publication also identified a secondary mission for Army bands. Bands assume the secondary mission when combat reaches an intensity that makes the primary music mission impractical. The secondary mission includes four areas:

- Command post security.
- Perimeter defense.
- Traffic control.
- Prisoner of war security.

The Department of the Army published Design Guide 1110-3-119 in March 1983 to assist in the planning, programming, and design of Army band training facilities. It provides space guidelines for practice, rehearsal, and other functions in support of Army Bands' military mission.

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On June 28, 1984, the Army established the Office of Chief, Army Bands at Fort Benjamin Harrison, Indiana. This office became the proponent for all matters pertaining to the Army Bands Program. With the establishment of this office, Army bands fall under the control of the Soldier Support Center instead of the Adjutant General Office.

Starting in 1984, musicians were required to audition and obtain an Additional Skill Identifier (ASI) of C1, prior to assignment at the 50th Army Band, 214th Army Band, and the 33rd Army Band. An audition score of 3.0 or higher is required for the C1 identifier. The three bands lost their O2S (Special Band) status and needed a system to identify superior performers.

The advanced training courses for Army bandsmen underwent major revision in 1984. The Groupleader Course (F2) graduated its last class in November 1984. In December 1984, the last Enlisted Bandleader Course graduated from the School of Music and the course was discontinued.

In 1983, the School of Music ended its long relationship with the Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC) as a separate service school and was integrated into the Soldier Support Center. All advanced courses underwent major revisions and aligned with the Noncommissioned Officer Education System (NCOES). Noncommissioned officers were now able to obtain credit on their official military records for classes taken, something that was unavailable under the old system. The following courses were offered:

(1) Advanced Noncommissioned Officer Course (ANCOC). This course trained sergeants first class and promotable staff sergeants. A common core, covering military training, was taught prior to arrival at the technical track at the School of Music. Training covered rehearsal techniques for ensemble and stage bands; band supply, administration, and operation procedures; and augmentation mission. The first ANCOC class began training at the School of Music in September 1984. Common Core was first taught at Ft. Ben Harrison, later moved to Ft. Eustis and finally established at the School of Music in 1996.

(2) Basic Noncommissioned Officer Course (BNCOC). This course trained staff sergeants and promotable sergeants. These bandmembers received training in section rehearsal techniques and drum majoring. They also received augmentation mission training as squad leaders/team leaders. The first BNCOC class was enrolled in June 1985.

In May 1985, one additional commissioned officer was authorized for the 50th Army, 214th Army, and 33rd Army Bands. In November 1985, the 214th Army Band (FORSCOM) was designated as The Army Ground Forces Band.

On December 16, 1985, the SHAPE Ceremonial and Musical Detachment, Belgium announced 12 MOS openings. The first MOS bandsman arrived in February 1986.

All bands were authorized as separate companies 1 October 1985. Actions were started to withdraw all division bands from the AG Company of the division and reorganize them as separate companies. Separate and division bands were authorized 40 MOS bandsmen and 1

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warrant officer.

In 1986, the groupleader MOS's (02P,02Q, and 02R) were eliminated. The skill level was extended to skill level for each instrumental MOS's. The MOS 02U for electric bass was added. These changes became effective October 1 1986.

In August 1986, Army bands were categorized into three different types: special bands, MACOM bands, and division/separate bands.

The following bands were designated as special bands.

The United States Army Band, Fort Myer, Virginia.
United States Army Field Band, Fort Meade, Maryland.
United States Military Academy Band, West Point, New York.

The following bands were designated as MACOM bands.

The 50th Army Band, (United States Continental Army Band), Fort Monroe, Virginia.
The 33rd Army Band, Heidelberg, Germany (USAREUR).
The 214th Army Band, Fort McPherson, Georgia (FORSCOM).

Two division bands (the 6th Infantry Division Band, Fort Richardson, Alaska, and the 10th Mountain Division Band, Fort Drum, New York) were activated in fiscal year (FY) 88. No increase in the total number of musicians in the Army was authorized. In order to fill the vacancies created by these activations, several actions were accomplished.

(1) Division and Army (numbered) bands began operating with a strength of 39 bandmen and 1 warrant officer. This eliminated one position from each division and Army band and helped support the two new division bands.

(2) The remaining spaces were filled by eliminating seven positions from the 214th Army Band and the 50th Army Band, one position from the Chief, Army Bands Office, and the rest from the School of Music.

OPERATION JUST CAUSE

The capturing of Manuel Noriega in Panama brought bands into combat again. The 79th Army Band, 82nd Airborne Band, 5th Infantry Division (Mechanized) Band, and the 7th Infantry Division Band participated in the operation.

The 79th Army Band was the only band involved in combat in Panama. The band guarded the command post and Tactical Operations Center. As the rest of the command returned to normal duties, the band still performed a security mission. The only musical mission was buglers performing for memorial services.

The other bands remained in the continental United States (CONUS) providing musical support to returning troops.

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DESERT SHIELD - DESERT STORM

The invasion of Iraq into Kuwait in 1990 brought the US into conflict again. Bands once again distinguished themselves.

Eight bands saw duty in the Gulf War. They were: 1st Armored Division Band, 1st Cavalry Division Band, 1st Infantry Division Band, 3rd Armored Division Band, 24th Infantry Division Band, 82nd Airborne Division Band, 84th Army Band, and 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault).

In addition, two National Guard Bands, the 129th Army Band, and the 151st Army Band, were activated to support Ft. Campbell while the 101st Airborne Division Band was stationed in the Gulf. The two National Guard bands provided musical support to the families during the war. They also performed for troops returning from Desert Storm.

Bands' duties were varied. The 24th Infantry Division Band provided little musical support. The 3rd Armored Division Band provided music up to and including the start of the war. The 3rd Armored Division Band performed on the enemy side of a berm while the 24th Infantry Division advanced into Iraqi territory. Many bandsmen spent countless hours guarding the perimeter.

HURRICANE ANDREW

In 1992, Hurricane Andrew struck southern Florida. Damages and casualties were catastrophic. The federal government helped the recovery with the operation Provide Comfort. As part of the effort, two bands provided support to the area.

The 10th Mountain Division Band, and the 13th Army Band (Florida National Guard) performed concerts for refugees and relief workers, and provided other valuable assistance. These concerts boosted morale and provided authorities an effective means to gather people and disseminate supplies and information.

HAITI

In October 1995, the 82nd Airborne Division Band participated in Operation Uphold Democracy. The band performed numerous concerts for US and NATO troops as well as the Haitian people. In addition to a musical mission, the band also went on patrols.

The 10th Mountain Division Band also participated in Operation Uphold Democracy. The band entertained troops, dignitaries at the Ambassador's house, and the Haitian people. When not playing music, the band guarded points within their area.

DOWNSIZING THE ARMY

The fall of the Berlin Wall, the demise of communism and lessons learned from Desert Shield/Storm and Operation Just Cause provided the catalyst for the Army to evaluate its

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concepts and doctrine. The need for a "peace dividend" generated cuts in the size of the Army. The Army scaled down to 10 Divisions in 1997. Troop population fell from 590,000 to 495,000.

The Army Band field was not immune to cuts. The Army will cut 19 bands in the 1990s.

The following active Army Bands, as of May 1996, have been inactivated:

- 1st Army Band, Fort Meade, Maryland
- 1st Infantry Division Band, Fort Riley, Kansas
- 2nd Armored Division Band, Fort Hood, Texas
- 4th Army Band, Fort Sheridan, Illinois
- 6th Army Band, Presidio-San Francisco, California
- 7th Infantry Division Band, Fort Ord, California
- 18th Army Band, Fort Devens, Massachusetts
- 19th Army Band, Fort Dix, New Jersey
- 26th Army Band, Fort Hamilton, New York
- 74th Army Band, Fort Ben Harrison, Indiana
- 298th Army Band, Berlin, Germany
- 493d Army Band, Frankfurt, Germany.

The following Reserve/ARNG Component Bands, as of May 1996, have closed:

- 26th Division Band, Boston, Massachusetts
- 50th Division Band, E. Orange, New Jersey.

The following Active Bands are slated for inactivation:

- 14th Army Band, Fort McClellan, Alabama
- 79th Army Band, Ft Clayton, Panama.

The following Reserve/ARNG Bands are slated for inactivation:

- 59th Army Band, Sacramento, California
- 159th Army Band, San Rafael, California.

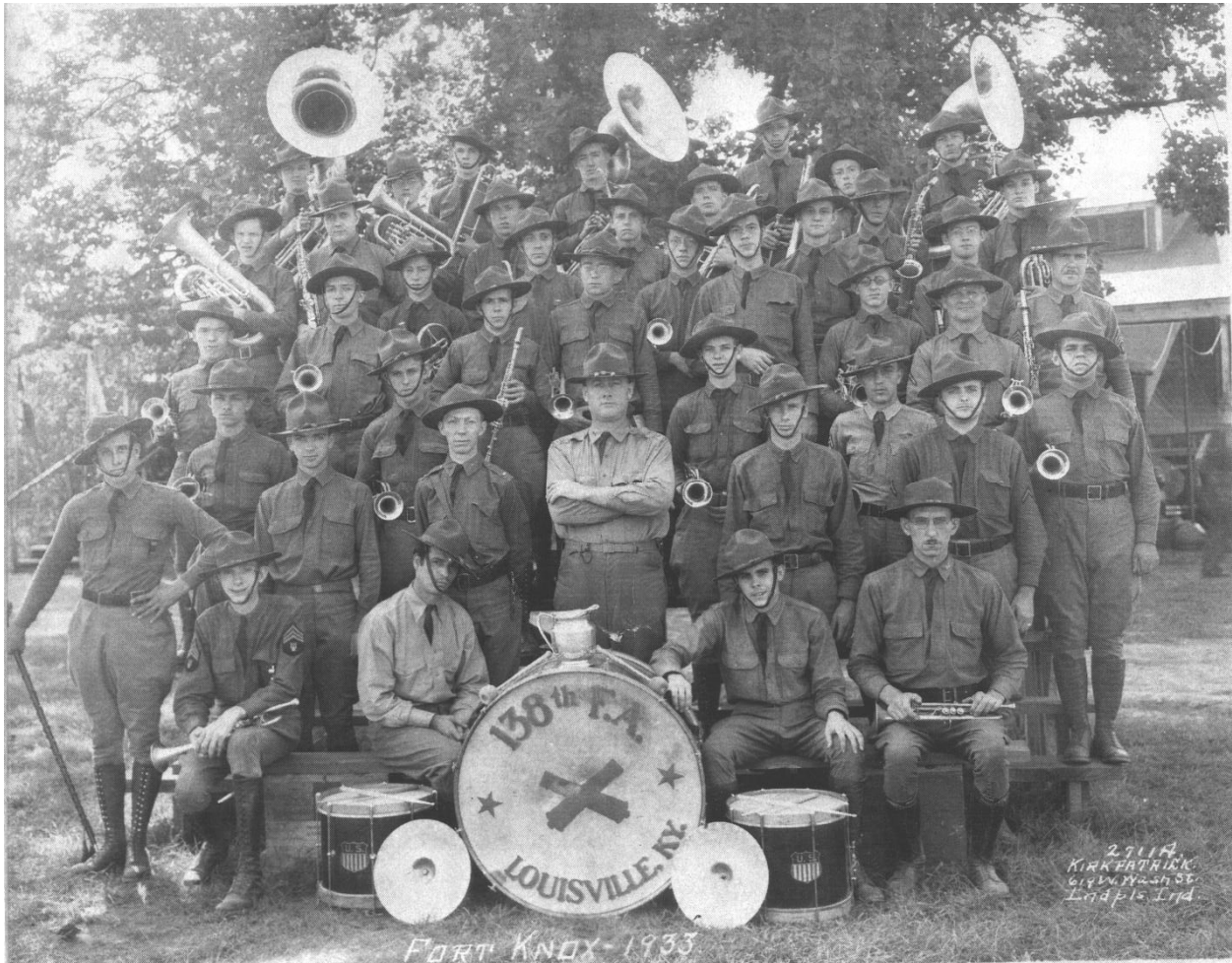
BOSNIA

The United States involvement in the peace mission in Bosnia again allowed bands to experience combat. The following bands found themselves in Bosnia: the 1st Armored Division Band, the 76th Army Band, and the 33rd Army Band.

As with other conflicts, band's missions varied. The 33rd and 76th Army Band concentrated on a musical mission. The 1st Armored Division Band performed both a musical and security mission with one week on and one week off. When performing guard duty, the band splits in half and part of the band performs guard duty and part is available for musical commitments. The commander utilized small groups during that time. When guard duty is not a band tasking, the entire band performs together.

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Kentucky National Guard Early Regimental Bands



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“And The Band Played On”

A Short History of the 202nd Kentucky Army National Guard Band

By Thomas W. Fugate, with updated information by SFC James E. Wallace



The foundation for the 202nd Army Band developed during World War II. However, not until November 1946 was authorization granted to organize the unit as the 202nd Army Ground Forces Band to be stationed at Lexington, Kentucky. There the commanding officer was to “secure necessary enlistments, have physical examinations conducted and assemble the unit for inspection for Federal recognition.” Adjutant General Gustavus H. May designated the date for the band’s initial inspection, and on January 30, 1947, under the command of Warrant Officer Frank J. Prindl, the band received federal recognition.



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**NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU
WAR DEPARTMENT
WASHINGTON**

BY AUTHORITY OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR

202d Army Ground Forces Band

having conformed to the requirements prescribed by National Guard Regulations, and in accordance with the provisions of Section 60, National Defense Act, approved June 3, 1916, as amended, is extended federal recognition.

Effective: 30 January 1947

Station: Lexington, Kentucky

Letter of allotment: 7 May 1947

L. B. Weeks
L. B. WEEKS
Colonel, NGB

Assistant.

NGB Form 4.

1-4791—FORT BELVOIR, VA.—G-15-48—80, 000

Six months later, on July 24, 1947, the 202nd left Lexington for its new duty station, Ashland, Kentucky where it would be under the direction of Warrant Officer William C. Reeves and First Sergeant Harold Scott. Now that the group had a full complement of bandmen, locating a facility in which to conduct drills and store equipment was the next obstacle for the young band. An agreement with officials of the Ashland Senior High School resulted in access to a small storage room and the use of the school's band hall until the completion of a new Armory. In 1950, the band moved



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to the new Ashland armory.

The band's first two-week summer training camp took place at Fort Knox, with their barracks being located at the future site of the Kentucky Military Academy mess hall (during the late 1990's KMA moved from Fort Knox, soon after the building was razed). The unit continued summer training at Fort Knox until 1952, when they traveled to Fort Campbell. After three consecutive years of training at that facility, annual training shifted to Camp Breckinridge, Kentucky until 1963. In 1964, the band traveled to Camp McCoy, Wisconsin, to attend their first annual training camp outside Kentucky. Throughout the remainder of the 1960's, the band returned to Fort Campbell and Fort Knox, where they trained with the 113th Army Band. During its first twenty years of training, the band gained a reputation not only as accomplished musicians, but also as well-trained marksmen and efficient soldiers.



In 1952, 1953, and 1954, the 202nd was awarded the coveted Pershing Trophy, named in honor of General John J. "Black Jack" Pershing, for rifle marksmanship. Because the unit received the trophy three consecutive years, the trophy was retired and the band was precluded from further competition with other units of the Kentucky National Guard.

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In 1954 the band won the Eisenhower Trophy. This award recognized the National Guard unit that demonstrated the highest degree of military proficiency for the year. From 1952 through 1967, with the exception of only one year, the 202nd obtained the National Guard Award for Efficiency. While at Ashland, they also received the Adjutant General's Trophy, the National Guard of Kentucky Trophy for Rifle Marksmanship, the National Guard Award for Efficiency in Training, and a Certificate of Victory for National Guard Marksmanship.



The 202nd experienced its second station change on September 1, 1970. After twenty-three years of continuous association with the Ashland community, the band shifted duty station to Louisville, where it was hoped that heightened accessibility would improve recruitment.



While stationed in Louisville the band was attached to the 138th Field Artillery. As a consequence of the move many of the Ashland based unit members resigned or retired due to the travel distances between Ashland and Louisville. New personnel began to fill the ranks.

Following the retirement of Bill Broughton, Chief Warrant Officer John M. Hoover assumed command of the 202nd with Ronald L. Baker serving as his First Sergeant. They quickly set to work rebuilding the band; yet only one year later the band again relocated, this time to the capital city of Frankfort. There they were assigned to the State Area Command (STARC). Early drills for the now Frankfort-based band took place in the "Old Armory," today the Kentucky State

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Police supply building on U.S. Highway 60.

In 1975 a new armory opened at the Boone National Guard Center and the band, along with several other units, began drilling each month in that facility. Some eleven years later, during October 1986, the Kentucky National Guard acquired property from the Seventh-Day Adventist Church. The church building, renovated for the specific needs of the band, was deemed “the best facility we have ever had” by unit leaders. The band’s “armory” was originally shared with a detachment of the 615th Military Police Criminal Investigation Division (CID); later the 133rd Public Affairs Detachment (PAD) replaced the CID as joint occupants of the facility with the band. Today the band is the sole occupant of the building.



In the early 1970s, as a means of showcasing the band’s musicianship and enhancing local units’ recruiting efforts, a new statewide concert tour program was enacted. The 202nd Army Band would travel the Commonwealth conducting performances to fulfill its annual training requirements. Until this time the band conducted its training exercises in similar manner to other units; during one of the two weeks the unit trained as regular combat soldiers – marching, firing weapons, undergoing inspection, sleeping in tents and enduring the rigors of physical training; while the other week emphasized



proficiency in the group’s primary role, performing music at Guard and civilian functions. Thus the 202nd has always blended two, sometimes conflicting missions – the development of morale and *esprit de corps* via music and military preparedness. It was at this time that Colonel (Ret.)

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Armando “Al” J. Alfaro was appointed by the Adjutant General, Major General (Ret.) Richard L. Frymire to assist with the development and promotion of the band, as staff band coordinator.

In 1973, the 202nd's first annual statewide concert tour took place from June 9 to 23, during which time the band conducted seventeen concerts in nine cities. These concerts, conducted in communities where National Guard units were located, were intended to “acquaint the young men and women of each city with the benefits of belonging to the Kentucky National Guard.” Fountain Square, in the heart of Bowling Green, was the opening site for this two-week tour that would take the band to Glasgow, Owensboro, Louisville, Fort Knox, Frankfort, and other sites across the state. During this concert tour the band appeared on WAVE TV and WKYT's “Town Talk” program. The band performed three numbers during the show and interviews were conducted with bandmaster Mr. Hoover and Colonel Alfaro. Also during this tour the band split into three separate groups – a concert band, a dance band, and a popular rock band, “The Wilderness Road New Breed.” These three components of the 202nd visited area hospitals and performed for hundreds of handicapped and disabled children.

Annual training in 1974 saw the beginning of the unit's “Bicentennial Music Tour” intended to commemorate the 200th anniversary of Kentucky's Euro-American settlement and the upcoming bicentennial of our nation's independence. During the two-week concert tour the band again performed at numerous celebrations, such as the “Bicentennial Flag Day” program at the Old State Capitol and many charitable functions. All these performances were surpassed, however, when the 202nd Army Band accompanied singer Danny Thomas during the 1974 Easter Seals Telethon for Crippled Children in Lexington.



Again in 1975, for the third consecutive year, the band toured the state giving free concerts in eleven cities over a fifteen-day period. But this year a new attraction enhanced the tour. On May 1, 1975, a full-scale replica of the Liberty Bell accompanied the band. The replica had first toured Kentucky during the summer of 1950 and was placed near the entrance of the Old State Capitol upon the conclusion of the 1950 tour. (The bell, proudly exhibited near the Armory at the Boone National Guard Center in Frankfort for many years, was used in a ceremony in 2002 to commemorate the victims of the September 11th, 2001 World Trade tours bombing. It is now in the possession of the Kentucky Historical Society).

The bicentennial tour concluded July 11, 1976, after two weeks of the unit's participating in parades and concerts in Carrollton, Lexington, London, Williamsburg, Glasgow, Owenton, Central City, and other sites across the state. On July 7, during an interview for the Times-Argus newspaper of Central City, then CW2 John Hoover, director of the band, stated: “People tend to

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think of us as a 'military band' playing 'military music', but that's a totally false impression. In reality, we're civilians from many professions who get together in the Guard once a month to play some fine music from nearly every field. We do a lot of different things throughout the week, but when we get together, we're all musicians and we really enjoy putting a good show together."

Instead of conducting their customary concert tour for annual training in 1978, the band opted to travel to Camp Shelby, Mississippi, to "get a taste of training at a military post." CW2 Hoover stated, "Going to an Army post was an unexpected stroke of good luck, from a training point of view." It also proved to be fortunate for the bandsmen's standpoint as concert locations included a visit to New Orleans and a performance at Jackson Square in New Orleans' famed French Quarter.

Sergeant First Class Martin L. Smith later wrote, "That day will live in our memories for a good many years to come." This training session was so successful that many of the bandsmen hated to see it end. Following 1978 the 202nd returned to its more customary annual state concert tour. From 1979 until 1982, the 202nd Army Band continued touring Kentucky offering free concerts at such places as the Kentucky Horse Park, the Armor Center at Fort Knox, area churches, and local festivals. Among the more memorable activities for 1983 was a July 1 reunion concert, which took place at the 16th Street Plaza in Ashland. Former and current members joined together to swap stories and share the accomplishments of the 202nd's more than thirty years of successful service. Annual training in 1984 saw the unit travel north to Camp Grayling, Michigan where in addition to concerts in communities throughout central Michigan, the unit participated in Nuclear, Biological, and Chemical (NBC) warfare and field training exercises.

In 1986, the band proudly led the parade through Frankfort that marked Kentucky's observance of the 350th Anniversary of the founding of the National Guard. Additional training in 1987 provided another memorable occasion for the bandsmen who attended annual training at Fort Stewart, Georgia. That year lightning struck a tree and ran along the ground to a tent where the guardsmen had bivouacked. A number of bandsmen were injured, although none permanently; yet, the episode did add a new twist to the band's banner – the humorous addition of a lighting bolt.

During the decade of the 1990s the band continued to grow in reputation, with annual training camps being conducted at Fort Benning, Georgia in 1990; Ft. Knox in 1992 and 1994, and Wendell H. Ford Regional Training Center in 1997 and 1998. The highlight of the decade occurred in November 1994 when the unit traveled to Santiago Chile as guests of the Chilean military. During the two-week stay the unit traveled into the Andes Mountains, performed in coastal communities and played joint concerts with Chilean military bands. As representatives of Kentucky, unit members were hosted by municipal officials, Chilean military leaders, and US Embassy officials. In 1996, long-time unit commander John M. Hoover retired after twenty-five years as unit chief warrant officer. In a celebration dubbed "Hooverpaloosa '96" active and retired members of the unit gathered from across the state to honor the man who had commanded

60th Anniversary Of The 202nd Army Band

the unit approximately half the fifty years of its existence (1947 to 1997).

Gregg Stepp, then Western Hills High School Band director, assumed command of the 202nd in early 1997. The latter 1990s saw the band perform on a regular basis at the Great American Brass Band Festival, Danville, the Glasgow Highland Games, Glasgow, Kentucky; the Kentucky Music Education Association annual conference, both the Kentucky National Guard's Officers and Enlisted Association annual conferences, and the Governor's Derby Breakfast.

As the band entered the 21st Century, it continued to blend its dual musical and military missions alternating between concert tours of the state and annual training missions at Ft. Knox, Kentucky. New leadership continued to emerge within the group as longtime First Sergeant Dan Long retired in 2001, to be replaced by Charles Adwell. In 2007, Sergeant First Class Sharon Cates succeeded First Sergeant Adwell, to become the first female senior NCO in the unit.

The 202nd Kentucky Army National Guard Band has provided sixty years of service to our Nation, and the Commonwealth. Hundreds of musician-soldiers have given of their time and talents. Many Kentuckians, Americans, and citizens of foreign nations have been entertained and introduced to the Kentucky National Guard, through the efforts of this organization. Today the unit continues its outstanding military and musical traditions, and proudly serving the Commonwealth of Kentucky, by serving with distinction in ceremonial, public relations, and community-oriented activities.



60th Anniversary Of The 202nd Army Band
60th Anniversary Concert Tour and
“Kentucky’s Guardians” song of the Kentucky National Guard



60th Anniversary Of The 202nd Army Band



60th Anniversary Of The 202nd Army Band

The 202nd Army National Guard Band



CW3 Gregory Stepp
Commander
Instrument Technician



1SG Sharon Cates
First Sergeant
Instrument Technician

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|---|---|---|
|  <p>SSG Amy Robinson Assistant Drum Major</p> |  <p>SFC Scott Decker Assistant Drum Major</p> |  <p>SFC Amy Wilson Assistant Drum Major</p> |  <p>SFC Angela Walker Assistant Drum Major</p> | | | |
|  <p>SFC Michael</p> |  <p>SFC</p> |  <p>SFC</p> |  <p>SFC</p> |  <p>SFC</p> |  <p>SFC</p> |  <p>SFC</p> |
|  <p>SFC</p> |  <p>SFC</p> |  <p>SFC</p> |  <p>SFC</p> |  <p>SFC</p> |  <p>SFC</p> |  <p>SFC</p> |
|  <p>SFC</p> |  <p>SFC</p> |  <p>SFC</p> |  <p>SFC</p> |  <p>SFC</p> |  <p>SFC</p> |  <p>SFC</p> |
|  <p>SFC</p> |  <p>SFC</p> |  <p>SFC</p> |  <p>SFC</p> |  <p>SFC</p> |  <p>SFC</p> |  <p>SFC</p> |
|  <p>SFC</p> |  <p>SFC</p> |  <p>SFC</p> |  <p>SFC</p> |  <p>SFC</p> |  <p>SFC</p> |  <p>SFC</p> |

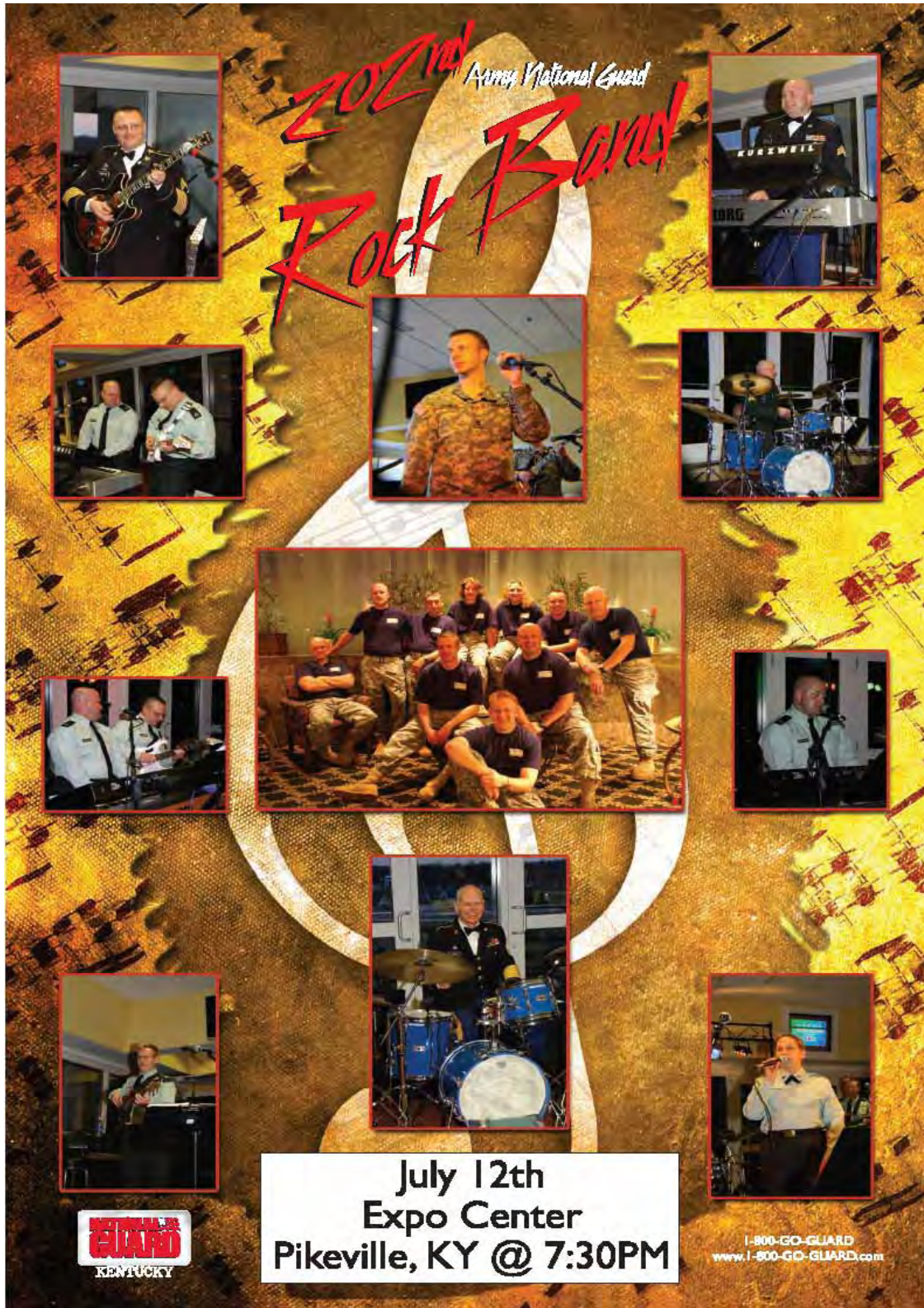
Musicians not pictured:
 SFC Randy Roberts/Drum Major
 SFC Andrew Cline/Drum Major
 SFC Ken Shaw/Cornet
 SFC John Kellough/Cornet
 SFC Dave Whitworth/Saxophone
 SFC Rebecca Thompson/Flute



For more information on how to join the 202nd Kentucky Army National Guard Band, or if you are wanting more information on how to book or request the band, please call (502) 697-5331, or contact your local Kentucky Army National Guard Recruiter. For more information on other jobs available with the Kentucky Army National Guard, please call 1-800-GO-GUARD or visit our website @ www.1-800-GO-GUARD.com.



60th Anniversary Of The 202nd Army Band



**202nd Army National Guard
Rock Band**

**July 12th
Expo Center
Pikeville, KY @ 7:30PM**

1-800-GO-GUARD
www.1-800-GO-GUARD.com

KENTUCKY

60th Anniversary Of The 202nd Army Band



*The Adjutant General of Kentucky
Major General Donald C. Storm
and the 202nd Army National Guard Band
request the pleasure of your company
for the official unveiling of the
"KY National Guard Song"
during a special concert in Bradford Hall,
Kentucky State University, Frankfort, KY
the third of November at five o'clock
A reception will be held at four o'clock
Preceding the concert.*

*RSVP: SFC Todd Smotherman 502.607.1865 or
todd.smotherman@us.army.mil
Military: Duty Mess Dress or Dress Blues
Civilian: Formal*

Opening remarks of BG John Heltzel at the song's unveiling: "What exactly does having an official song mean? Why is Something like a song important, especially to a military organization like the Kentucky National Guard?"

The truth of the matter is that music is many things to many people and we all have an opinion on what role it plays in our lives, some more than others. From the playing of our national anthem at ball games to the hymns we sing in church, we gain confidence, inspiration and even comfort from the various sounds of music.

Historically, the role of music in the military centered around communication. The roll of the drums, the sound of the pipes, the blaring of horns, from biblical times to the twentieth century, all these musical techniques were used to communicate orders and commands from the leadership to the troops.



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From bagpipes and drums on the battlefield to the sound of a lonely bugle in a cemetery, music continues to be an integral part of military tradition.

And tonight we are privileged to witness the birth of a new tradition. Commissioned by fellow Guardsman and longtime patron Colonel Armando Alfaro and composed by Sergeant Steven D. Thompson of the Kentucky Guard's 202nd Army Band, "Kentucky's Guardians" is an anthem that honors Citizen-Soldiers past and present.



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A Tribute to the Kentucky Army and Air National Guard

Kentucky's Guardians

Steven Thompson

1 We first served back in Fincastle County Your people's lives were
3 first at the birth of our Nation For people yearning

peace free - and still we stand to pro - tect our precious. Our cause would bleed us dry
in breathe free then come of Free-dom shine bright for all the world to see the Guard

When we held on dear Long Rifles Li - ber - ty Du - ty bound to

Freedom li - ber - ty We stand like Noble Ea - gles to de - fend and serve with Mo - ral cou - rage

Courage when dis - as - ter strikes Kentucky Guards men on all the end

We first served back in Fincastle County
Virginia's Western most frontier and
still we stand to protect our precious Commonwealth
Kentucky Home we hold so dear

Long Rifles fired at the birth of our Nation
Her people yearning to breathe free
Beacons of Freedom shine bright for all the world to see the
Guardians of Liberty

Duty bound by Honor United We Stand like
Noble Eagles to defend and serve with
Moral Courage when disaster strikes
Kentucky Guardsmen until the end.

In Civil War our ranks were divided
As Reds and Yanks we showed no fear
We fought with Honor and Courage for both North and South
still the Union persevered

In forty-two Philippines central Luzon
Sixty and three miles march did we

In Forty-five Zig Zag Pass did Mighty Cyclone blow
Bataan avenged for all to see
Duty bound by Honor United We Stand like
Noble Eagles to defend and serve with
Moral Courage when disaster strikes
Kentucky Guardsmen until the end.

In the jungles and skies of Vietnam
We fought and served on Eagles Wings
and though many were lost at Fire Base Tomahawk
sweet Lady Liberty still sings.

At Robert's Ridge and Saiman Pak Uncommon Valor
With Selfless Service and Loyalty
into the Fire flew the few for comrades fallen
Heroic portraits of Gallantry.

Duty bound by Honor United We Stand like
Noble Eagles to defend and serve with
Moral Courage when disaster strikes
Kentucky Guardsmen until the end.

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202nd Army Band Leadership - 2007



Chief Warrant Officer Third Gregg Stepp



First Sergeant Sharon R. Cates



Sergeant First Class James E. Wallace

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Sergeant First Class Scott Dobler

Sergeant First Class Angela Wilkins



Staff Sergeant Richard Alan Robinson

202nd Army Band Commanders

Frank Joseph Prindl

January 30, 1947 to July 1947

By Vivian M. Prindl

Frank was born into a musical family in Horicon, Wisconsin in 1914. His father, Joseph Prindl, a band leader, clarinetist and composer led bands in three towns. His sons, John and Frank played in these groups. Frank was only 7 or 8 years of age when he began to play trumpet under his father's leadership. During the summer, there would be three rehearsals and three concerts each week, so as a child Frank learned to sight read very well.

The Prindl family moved to Milwaukee when he was in high school. There his father organized a family orchestra and they played many engagements. Frank studied string bass and soon was playing regularly in dance bands during his college years. He graduated from the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee in 1937.



Immediately after graduation he went to Tucson, Arizona where he was Assistant Band Director, earning his Masters in Music degree in 1939.

Thereafter he and his wife, whom he had married in 1938, went to Decatur, Illinois where he taught at Milliken University as a band director. While in Decatur he organized and directed the Municipal Band.

In 1943 Frank was band director at Murray State University in Kentucky – moving to the University of Kentucky in 1945. The Second World War was just ending and Frank was busy with several bands at the university – the marching band, the concert band, the ROTC band, as well as that of the Kentucky National Guard. Frank was commissioned a Warrant Officer Junior Grade in the Kentucky National Guard in May of 1947, and took immediate command of the new organized 202nd Army Band. He served as commander of the band while it was stationed in Lexington.

With building up these several organizations, in addition to his regular course of work, he was very busy. About 1950, he turned over the marching band to an assistant and concentrated on

60th Anniversary Of The 202nd Army Band

the concert band. He took these band members on tour during the spring break for several years – giving concerts in many towns in Kentucky, West Virginia, and Tennessee.

During his Kentucky years he directed and judged many high school bands in Kentucky and nearby states, going in 1951 and 1952 to Hawaii, where he conducted the massed and select bands.

Frank served as President of the Southern Division of the College Band Directors Association. For seven years he was music critic for the *Lexington Herald Leader*.

During these busy years he took courses leading to his doctorate, which was awarded in 1956 by the Florida State University.

In 1957 he was appointed Cultural Affairs Officer and served in that role for two years at the American Embassy in Bonn, Germany.

When a new college, part of the New York University system was opened in Glens Falls, New York, he was appointed as Head of the Humanities Division which included the departments of: Art, Music, English, and Languages.

As usual, he became part of the music community, playing his bass for the Symphony orchestra and other groups. He conducted oratorios more than once.

Ten years after he died in 1974, much beloved by his family, which included two grandchildren, his wife was asked if she would consent to the Glens Falls Symphony Orchestra naming their first scholarship the Dr. Frank J. Prindl Scholarship? Also, would she present it at the next concert?

Frank Prindl was a well loved teacher who touched many lives in his career as a band director.

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William Carl Reeves
July 24, 1947 to June 1951

William C. Reeves was born 28 May 1907, in Carter County, Kentucky. He was a graduate of Grayson County High School in 1926. Reeves graduated in 1945 from the University of Kentucky.

On 25 June 1947, WOJG William Carl Reeves was appointed the band director. He resigned from the position on 31 July 1952.

William C. Reeves died at the age of 87 on 21 June 1994, in Ashland, Kentucky.

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Maurice Lee McNeal
June 1951 to August 1, 1952

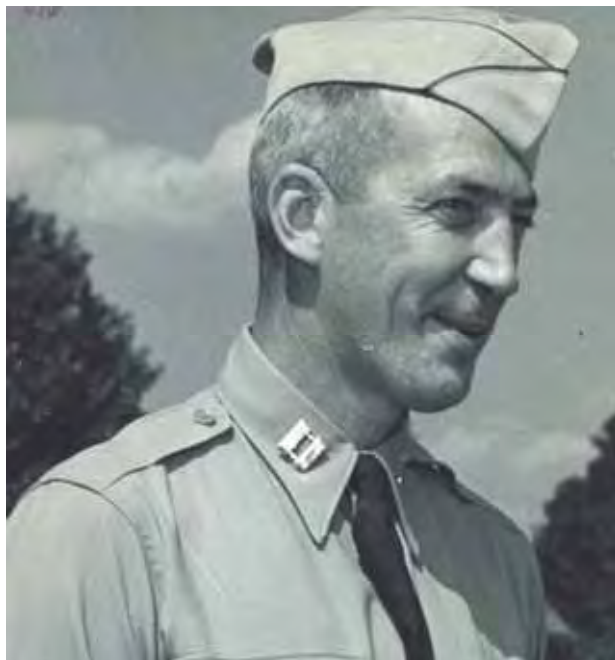
Maurice L. McNeal was born, 21 Jul 1912, in Dola, West Virginia.

He graduated from Ashland High School in 1932.

He first joined the Kentucky National Guard as a member of Company G, 149th Infantry from 23 Jan 1937 to 07 Oct 1940.

He joined the Regular Army during World War II. While on active duty he completed OCS, and rose to the rank of Captain. He had served with the 77th Field Artillery Battalion. McNeal was relieved from active duty on 10 March 1946.

He rejoined the Kentucky National Guard, on 23 September 1946 where he remained until his retirement, on 19 August 1965. McNeal spent the majority of his service in the 201st Engineer Battalion. He retired as a Lieutenant Colonel, commander of the 201st.



During his time with 202nd Band Captain McNeal was not officially assigned to the unit, he was assigned to the Special Staff of the Kentucky National as Public Relations Officer. He died 20 July 2000, at Richmond, Kentucky.

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**Robert Eugene Fleming
August 1952 to September 1958**

Robert E. Fleming was born 31 July 1931, in Ashland, Boyd County, Kentucky. He was a 1937 graduate of Ashland High School.

Fleming retired in 1993, after 40 years of teaching in Ohio. His teaching career included Ironton and Warren Public Schools, Youngstown State University and Hiram College. His bands have received great acclaim throughout the nation.

Fleming received his Bachelor and Masters degrees from Marshall University in Huntington, West Virginia.

He is a member of the American Bandmaster's Association, Phi Mu Alpha Music Fraternity, American Federation of Musicians, Omicron Delta Kappa National Leadership Honor Society, Phi Beta Mu,

National Bandmasters Fraternity and appears frequently throughout the United States and Canada as an adjudicator, clinician and guest conductor.

Some of the honors that he has received include Distinguished Professor at YSU, Citation of Excellence from the National Band Association, Outstanding Alumni Award from Marshall University, Kentucky Colonel Commission by the Governor and Phi Beta Mu International Bandmasters Fraternity "Hall of Fame Award" that was presented at a W.D. Packard Band Concert in 2000. He also has been awarded the status of Director of Bands Emeritus from both Hiram College and Youngstown State University.

